

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

TAR-02 SWF-02 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /206 W

----- 094131

R 091750Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9694

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GY

SUBJECT: WEST INDIES QUOTA UNDER PROPOSED SUGAR LEGISLATION

REFS: (A) STATE 091986 (B) STATE 092672 (C) STATE 094008

1. I BRIEFED FONMIN RAMPHAL MAY 8 ON CONTENT REFTELS AND AT HIS REQUEST HAVE GIVEN HIM TEXT OF PARA 1-8 REFTEL (B). I EMPHASIZED POSSIBILITY CHANGES BEING INTRODUCED IN COURSE FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, BUT SAID I THOUGH SUBCOMMITTEE HAD GIVEN FULL WEIGHT TO CARICOM PERFORMANCE UNDER CHANGED MARKET PRIORITIES SINCE BEGINNING 1974 HARVEST.

2. RAMPHAL TOOK NEWS CALMY, THOUGH HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HAC SUBCOMMITTEE HAD LEFT CARICOM CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF ITS GOAL OF 200,000 TONS. HE WAS GRATIFIED AT SAME TIME THAT

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TENTATIVE QUOTA WAS SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER THAN A STRICT APPLI-

CATION OF SHORTFALL CRITERIA WOULD HAVE PRODUCED. HE ASSURED ME GOG WOULD NOT REGARD, OR ALLEGE, ACTION MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

3. AS I WAS LEAVING, WE ENCOUNTERED OFFICIALS OF BOOKERS SUGAR ESTATES IN OUTER OFFICE. HE HAD JUST CONFIRMED BY TELECON WITH EMBOFF THE W.I. QUOTA AND IN RESPONSE TO RAMPHAL'S QUERY, CALLED IT "TERRIBLE BLOW". HE SAID SPA AND ITS W.I. COUNTERPARTS WOULD BE MOBILIZING EFFORTS THROUGH LOBBYIST TO TRY TO GET QUOTA RAISED IN HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE AND IN SENATE.

4. COMMENT: OUR PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS INDICATES QUOTA ABOUT 40,000 TONS BELOW AVERAGE W.I. DELIVERIES TO U.S. OVER 1969-73 PERIOD. ASSUMING SOME SHORTFALL DISTRIBUTION FROM MAINLAND AND OTHER AREAS, W.I. PRODUCERS SHOULD COME CLOSE TO THIS AVERAGE DURING 1975 PROVIDED THEY HAVE THE SUGAR TO SHIP. KREBS

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